

{July 21, 2007} — Media, PA — Today Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) presented the Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal to Melissa Leder-Randall for her father Corporal Neil Leder's service in the U.S. Army. "At an early age, my father left college to enlist in the Army and serve our country. We feel it is important that our children know their grandfather's legacy of service to his country as something they can be very proud of" said his daughter Melissa Leder-Randall. Mr. Leder put on hold a very promising career in engineering to serve with the 87th Infantry Regiment from 1953 to 1955.

"Our men and women in uniform today serve our country courageously and brilliantly – in large part because of the sacrifices of those who have gone before them" said Congressman Sestak. "I am honored to present these medals to Mr. Leder's family as a remembrance of the contribution he made over a half century ago to the freedoms we enjoy today. Recognizing the service the men and women like Corporal Leder is one of the constituent services our District Office in Media routinely provides. We are honored to do it. It is a way our entire district can say "Thank you" to our Veterans and their families.

As a veteran himself, Congressman Sestak feels strongly about working for the safety of our troops and to provide veterans with the care they deserve. He has worked tirelessly to make ensure our nation keeps its promise to the men and women who kept theirs. Immediately after his election to the House of Representatives, Congressman Sestak met with the Library of Congress about the Veterans History Project. Created in 2000 by the United States Congress, the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress seeks to collect and archive the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations. The Project also collects stories from home front civilians who worked in support of our armed forces.

On Saturday morning, Congressman Sestak launched an outreach program for the Veterans History Project. Created in 2000 by the United States Congress, the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress seeks to collect and archive the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations. The Project also collects stories from home front civilians who worked in support of our armed forces. High school students throughout the district will record interviews with veterans to document their wartime experiences and learn from their example.

"It is important that we work closely to record the thoughts and recollections of our veterans to ensure that future generations, particularly our students, have access to the memories and experiences of veterans acquired during their service to the nation," said Congressman Sestak. "These individual stories will provide historians with invaluable information to give context to some of the greatest moments in our history and some of the most tragic. Just as important, it

will provide the public with a way to remember and celebrate the sacrifices made by the men and women who have fought to protect our freedom."

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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